[23rd November 1955

Food Adulteration Act

* 2780 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to enforce the provisions of the Food Adulteration Act?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : The Central Prevention of Food Adulteration Act is in force in all the States since 1st June 1955. The rules framed under the State Acts are still in force pending the framing of rules by the Central Government. The Health Inspectors employed by the Government and the Sanitary Inspectors employed in 82 panchayats, 61 municipalities and the Corporation of Madras do the sampling work and they take samples in accordance with the rules. The samples taken in the city are sent to the Public Analysts' Laboratory, Corporation of Madras, for analysis and samples taken in municipal and panchayat areas are sent to the King Institute, Guindy, for analysis. If the samples are found adulterated, the offenders are prosecuted under the Act.

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Since the short time the Central Act has been brought into force, may I ask whether the Government have noticed any improvement in the situation?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : It is too early to say.

MR. SPEAKER : With the permission of the House, the question-time will be extended by ten minutes.

Rickshaw and hand-cart pullers in the City

* 2781 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any statistics are maintained in the Madras City of rickshaw pullers, cycle-rickshaw pullers, hand-cart pullers, etc., when licences are issued to them by the Commissioner of Police; and

(*b*) the measures taken for the improvement of their living conditions under the First Five-year Plan?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : (*a*) Statistics are maintained by the Commissioner of Police, Madras, in respect of rickshaw pullers and cycle-rickshaw riders in the Madras City, but not in respect of hand-cart pullers.

(*b*) The First Five-year Plan is intended for the development of the State as a whole and hence it is not possible to give separately the measures undertaken to improve the living conditions of a particular type of labourers.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : May I know whether it is a fact that the Government are contemplating to abolish the entire system of pulling rickshaws, cycle-rickshaws, hand-carts by men, and if so, what alternative arrangements to give employment to would-be displaced workers the Government are proposing to make?